

From: Wolf
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 6:50pm
Subject: Settlement....

I am writing to express my concern with regards to the pending settlement of the anti-trust case against Microsoft.

I feel that if Microsoft is allowed to continue as outlined in the Dept. of Justice settlement it will be a severe blow to fair competition in the software industry and will make the open-source software movement a thing of the past. In reading the proposed settlement I saw far too much potential for Microsoft to start closing and making illegal to develop cross-compatible competing products. That coupled with Microsoft's often-stated opposition to the entire open-source software community would make it possible for them to use their monopoly position to eliminate open standards and thereby force consumers, businesses and colleges to accept Microsoft's products, and anyone making an open source equivalent that was interoperable with the Microsoft product would be subject to penalty.

I do not live in one of the nine states which is continuing to pursue the case but I definitely support those states in their effort to seek a meaningful and appropriate remedy to the Microsoft case, because I feel that the settlement proposed by the Dept. of Justice amounts to effectively a slap on the wrist and has little to deter continued abuse of a monopoly position.

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